

needed, for example, in a case of pseudoexfoliation or in a case of physical trauma where the Zonules may be torn. A toroidal ring-like structure of the type shown in FIG. 25 can, of course, serve (whether implanted in the capsular bag or the ciliary sulcus) as a receptacle for an IOL or other device to be implanted in the patient's eye, and in such a case may also be provided with an interior circumferential rib (not shown in FIG. 25 but similar to those shown in FIGS. 21-24) defining dual anterior and posterior compartments in the groove of the ring, subject always to the requirement that the haptics or position fixation elements of such a device must be capable of being fully seated in the groove of the ring-like structure 39. On the other hand, a ciliary sulcus-mounted bar-shaped ring-like structure of the type shown in FIGS. 26-27A can serve as a platform for supporting a variety of implantable devices, such as artificial irises, intraocular lenses and compound lens systems, or other optical and/or mechanical devices.

It will be understood that the foregoing description of preferred embodiments of the present invention is for purposes of illustration only, and that the various structural and functional features herein disclosed are susceptible to a number of modifications and changes none of which entails any departure from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the hereto appended claims.

I claim:

1. A "spare part" designed for use by a surgeon for surgical implantation into either the residual natural capsular bag or the ciliary sulcus of a patient's eye following an extracapsular or intracapsular cataract extraction, said "spare part" comprising a body made of a biocompatible sheet material preformed into the shape of an artificial either anteriorly incomplete and posteriorly complete or both anteriorly and posteriorly incomplete capsular bag-like structure, said artificial capsular bag-like structure having a peripheral generally toroidally ring-shaped equatorial region and including an annular anterior wall and an either annular or circular posterior wall connected to each other at their radially outwardmost peripheries and jointly defining between said walls a channel-shaped compartment for receiving an optical, mechanical or combined optical and mechanical device, and at least one of said anterior and posterior walls being provided on its respective anterior surface with a relatively compact series of degree markings which are distributed uniformly over at least one half of the circumference of said artificial capsular bag-like structure between two diametrically opposite locations on said anterior surface and at respective angular spacings of between about 3° and about 20° from each other and are visually perceptible by the surgeon within the patient's eye, after said artificial capsular bag-like structure has been inserted into the patient's eye, for facilitating achievement of a desired orientation of the axis of a cylinder lens component of an astigmatism-correcting intraocular lens when such intraocular lens is received in said compartment of said artificial capsular bag-like structure.

2. A "spare part" according to claim 1, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure is anteriorly incomplete and posteriorly complete, said anterior wall has the shape of an annular anterior capsular flap-like portion of said artificial capsular bag-like structure, and said posterior wall has the shape of an imperforate circular posterior capsule-like portion of said artificial capsular bag-like structure.

3. A "spare part" according to claim 1, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure is both anteriorly and posteriorly incomplete and thereby generally toroidally ring-shaped, and each of said anterior and posterior walls has the

shape of an annular capsular flap-like portion of said toroidally ring-shaped artificial capsular bag-like structure.

4. A "spare part" according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure further comprises an interior rib located within said compartment and extending circumferentially along and projecting radially inwardly of said generally toroidally ring-shaped equatorial region of said artificial capsular bag-like structure, said rib constituting a partition dividing said compartment into two subcompartments adapted to serve as separate receptacles for respective optical or mechanical devices.

5. A "spare part" according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure further comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced stiff but flexible spines located outside said compartment and projecting generally radially outwardly from the exterior surface of said generally toroidally ring-shaped equatorial region of said artificial capsular bag-like structure, said spines by virtue of their stiffness being adapted to penetrate into the sclera in the patient's eye in the region of the ciliary sulcus and the ciliary body for fixating said artificial capsular bag-like structure to the sclera.

6. A "spare part" according to claim 5, wherein said spines are arranged to perforate the entire thickness of the sclera and to project at respective locations beyond the outer surface of the sclera so as to provide each spine with a distal end region adapted to be bent into a hook-like portion capable of confinement between the outer surface of the sclera and an overlying section of Tenon's capsule.

7. A "spare part" according to claim 5, wherein said spines are arranged to perforate only a portion of the thickness of the sclera and to project at respective locations into a plurality of surgically opened incisions within the sclera so as to provide each spine with a distal end region adapted to be bent into a hook-like portion capable of confinement between the tissues of the sclera when the respective incision is closed.

8. A "spare part" according to claim 2 or 3, wherein a circumferential outer region of said posterior wall of said artificial capsular bag-like structure adjoining said generally toroidally ring-shaped equatorial region of said artificial capsular bag-like structure is inclined posteriorly relative to the equatorial plane of said artificial capsular bag-like structure, said posteriorly inclined outer region of said posterior wall serving, when said artificial capsular bag-like structure is implanted in the patient's residual natural capsular bag, to provide both an enhanced resistance to migration of epithelial cells over the natural posterior capsule and an enhanced resistance to posterior capsular opacification that tends to result in the patient's residual natural capsular bag from such epithelial cell migration.

9. A "spare part" according to claim 8, wherein the angle of inclination of said outer region of said posterior wall is in the range of about 10°-15°.

10. A "spare part" according to claim 8, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure further comprises an interior rib located within said compartment and extending circumferentially along and projecting radially inwardly of said generally toroidally ring-shaped equatorial region of said artificial capsular bag-like structure, said rib constituting a partition dividing said compartment into two subcompartments adapted to serve as separate receptacles for respective optical or mechanical devices.

11. A "spare part" according to claim 8, wherein said artificial capsular bag-like structure further comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced stiff but flexible spines located outside said compartment and projecting generally